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PART I

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

Appointment of Dr. C. V. Natarajan, Superintendent, Public Health Institute and Chemical Engineer, as an Additional Member of the Storage and Preservation of Food Grains Committee.

READ—

Government Order No. S. D. 6083-91—C. 182-43-2, dated 10th March 1944, directing that a Committee composed of certain gentlemen be constituted with the Director of Food Supplies as Chairman to pay continuous attention to the problems of storage and preservation of food grains.

2. Letter No. B2-Pr. 469—41-45, dated 23rd April 1945, from the Director of Food Supplies in Mysore, recommending that Dr. C. V. Natarajan, Superintendent, Public Health Institute and Chemical Engineer, may be appointed as an Additional Member of the above Committee.

ORDER No S. D. 7329-41—C. 16-44-150, DATED BANGALORE, THE 22ND MAY 1945.

Approved.

C. E. NORONHA, *Dev. Secy. (Food Supplies).*

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT

Grant of leave preparatory to retirement on production of Medical Certificate of incapacity for further service.

ORDER No. FL. 5031-94—S. & A 195-44-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 26TH MAY 1945.

According to Article 301 of the Mysore Service Regulations, an officer who has submitted a medical certificate of incapacity for further service must not (except for special reasons to be reported to Government) be retained in active service, pending a decision on his application for pension (Invalid pension or gratuity) nor can he obtain leave of absence except subsidiary leave preparatory to retirement. Further, without the special sanction of Government, service after the date of a medical certificate does not count for pension. The retirement of an officer, who is on leave, other than privilege leave, when such certificate is submitted, has however, effect from the date of the termination of his leave and the officer may continue to draw leave allowances till the end of his leave, while in the case of an officer who is on privilege leave, the retirement has to be given effect to from the date of the medical certificate of incapacity for further service.

Government consider that this distinction acts as a hardship in several cases. They are, therefore, pleased to direct that an officer, whether in superior or inferior service, who produces a medical certificate of permanent incapacity for further service, may be granted privilege leave and furlough on full average salary or pay, if any at his credit for a period not exceeding six months, preparatory to retirement from service.

Necessary amendments to the Mysore Service Regulations will issue separately.

B. S. RAGHAVENDRA RAO, *Finl. Secy.*

ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAT

Confers Enhanced Powers on Village Panchayets and makes arrangements for the effective supervision of work relating to rural development.

READ—

Government Order No. 8503-8557—V. P. 44-35-2, dated the 9th May 1936, sanctioning a scheme for organising concentrated propaganda in selected villages in the State.

2. Government Order No. L. 1564—V. P. 23-42-7, dated the 22nd October 1942, issuing orders regarding Rural Reconstruction Drive in selected hoblis in the State.

3. Government Order No. D. 687-767—E. C. 2-43-1, dated the 30th July 1943, reviving the scheme of Economic Conference, etc.

4. Government Order No. L. 6100-34—V. P. 63-41-3, dated the 20th December 1944, directing that a District Advisory Committee consisting of the District Officers of the Development Departments and influential non-official gentlemen representing several interests, be constituted in each district for reviewing the progress of work under the Rural Drive Scheme and to eventually function as a District Organisation under the Economic Development Scheme.

5. Government Order No. L. 4333-70—V. P. 22-44-3, dated the 3rd November 1944, directing that the scheme of Rural Drive be introduced into a second set of hoblis in the State.

6. Government Orders introducing the Village Panchayet Act in Mysore with amendments thereon from time to time.

ORDER No. L. 11486-520—V. P. 74-44-1, DATED BANGALORE, THE 28TH MAY 1945.

Under the Mysore Village Panchayet Act, 1926, the Village Panchayets in the State have been given statutory recognition and provision has been made for the administration of local affairs by the villagers themselves. The obligatory duties of Panchayets relate to village communications, conservancy and sanitation. But at the same time, it has been the policy of Government to encourage these bodies to undertake optional measures calculated to promote the convenience and economic welfare of the village communities, subject to their jurisdiction. This policy has assumed greater importance in recent years owing to the progressive increase in expenditure on departments concerned with rural welfare and on subsidies made directly to the Panchayets themselves for several purposes. Government have emphasized the need for an organised

and sustained effort by all those departments, whose activities touch the lives and surroundings of the rural population. The Village Panchayets can materially contribute to the success of this effort by active and intelligent co-operation.

2. During the year 1936, Government sanctioned under Government Order No. L. 8508-8557—V. P. 44-35-2, dated 9th May 1936, a scheme for organising concentrated propaganda in some of the selected villages in the State. As a result of this scheme, about 275 villages received special attention by the officers of the Development Departments and the Deputy Commissioners of Districts, and it was hoped that these selected villages would serve as models to other villages. Under this scheme, wherever public spirited non-officials co-operated with the local officers, the progress achieved in village improvement was striking.

3. With a view to achieve more speedy and substantial results in regard to improvement of village conditions and to raise the standard of the Village Panchayet administration generally, Government sanctioned a Five-Year Plan of Rural Reconstruction under Government Order No. L. 15-64—V. P. 23-42-7, dated 22nd October 1942. Under this scheme, it was sought to bring the Government and the private agencies more closely together with a view to secure an all-round development of villages within a definite period according to a well-considered programme. It was decided that the benefit of the scheme should not be limited to specially selected villages but be gradually extended, hobli by hobli, to all the Village Panchayets in the State. The scheme was accordingly put into operation in 81 hoblis comprising a total of 4,076 villages. A brief account of the work carried out by the Panchayets and other agencies concerned with the scheme is given in the appendix to this order.

4. The scheme provides for the association of non-official initiative and direction by the appointment of honorary workers. The educated man is not as a rule willing to live in his village and competent local leadership is not always forthcoming. It has therefore been found necessary to develop an honorary rural service. More than 250 persons with the necessary aptitude and background have been selected and posted for their work after receiving special training in their varied duties. Under this system, there will be a trained worker resident in each group of villages responsible for advising the villagers, where to go for advice and how best to utilize their own skill and resources in improving their economic condition and the amenities of village life.

5. An Advisory Committee has been formed for each of the 81 hoblis, in which the scheme is in operation. There is also a District Advisory Committee in each district. Prominent and active non-official workers have been selected as members of these Committees to assist the Deputy Commissioners and other local officers in drawing up programmes and reviewing the work done under the special scheme from time to time. At the top, there is a Central Advisory Committee for Rural Reconstruction consisting of important representatives of each district and the several Heads of Development Departments presided over by the Minister in charge, to review periodically the progress of work achieved and to co-ordinate the work of the State as a whole.

6. The Village Panchayet Act has been in force for 18 years now and various measures have been undertaken by the Government from time to time to develop the organisation of these Village Panchayets on sound lines. The great awakening in recent times of non-official interest in the health and welfare of the rural-folk is a welcome indication and it is considered that a stage is now reached, when it is necessary further to expand the activities of Village Panchayets, so that they may serve not only as units of local administration, but as agencies for promoting all manner of collective activity—social, moral and economic—centered on village life.

7. Government are accordingly pleased to issue the following directions:—

(1) The privilege of electing their chairmen will, as a rule, be conferred on all Village Panchayets. Nomination to the chairmanship of Village Panchayets will be made only in exceptional cases, where the Deputy Commissioners consider such a step necessary, having regard to local circumstances.

(2) Elected Chairmen of Village Panchayets may select a duly qualified non-official as their own leader for each hobli or a group of villages. Candidates so appointed will be treated for all practical purposes as Gramasudharakas appointed under the five-year plan of Rural Reconstruction sanctioned by Government in 1942.

(3) Steps should be taken in all appropriate cases (*a*) to transfer the management, conservation and maintenance of village forests, whether reserved for fuel and fodder or for other purposes to the existing Village Panchayets; (*b*) to empower the Village Panchayets to exercise all the powers and discharge all the functions of a panchayet under the Tank Panchayet Act of 1911, provided that the entire area irrigated by a tank is within the ordinary jurisdiction of a panchayet; (*c*) to entrust the Village Panchayets with the management of Minor Muzrai Institutions; and (*d*) to entrust the Village Panchayets with supervision over village schools in their area. Government desire that the Village Panchayets should function as Parent-Teachers Associations and that their work in connection with the school should be of an advisory character.

NOTE 1.—The delegation of the powers under 3 (*a*) to (*d*) above will apply in the first instance to the Village Panchayets in the selected hoblis under the five-year scheme.

NOTE 2.—The heads of departments concerned will submit a report to Government very early in regard to the rules to be prescribed in this behalf for the guidance of Village Panchayets, on which these additional powers have been conferred, and also in regard to the modifications to the existing rules that would be necessary in view of the present order.

(4) The question of assigning judicial functions to the Village Panchayets under the Mysore Village Courts Act is being separately examined and orders will issue in due course.

8. In modification of the existing orders Village Panchayets will exercise the following enhanced financial powers and the restrictions hitherto imposed on the withdrawal of funds from the treasury will be relaxed:—

(i) Village Panchayets may sanction estimates for original public works or repairs costing not more than Rs. 300. Where the estimated cost of the work does not exceed Rs. 200, the preparation of formal estimates may be dispensed with by a resolution of the Village Panchayet recorded to that effect. In such cases a certified copy of the resolution should be promptly sent to the Amildar of the taluk.

(ii) Village Panchayets may incur on their own initiative an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 25 in each case for the repairs of the village school buildings in their area.

(iii) Without obtaining the previous orders or the consent of the Amildar, the Village Panchayets may incur expenditure on account of contingent charges on the scale prescribed under the rules.

(iv) Where expenditure on specific items is supported by a formal resolution of the Village Panchayet, the Chairman or any other person duly authorised by him, may withdraw from the treasury the amount required for payment, without the countersignature of the Amildar to the payees' receipts and no chellans for payment at the treasury need be initialled by the Village Panchayet Clerk in future. The Comptroller is requested to issue revised instructions to the treasury officers in this behalf.

9. With a view to set up a suitable agency in each taluk for co-ordinating the work of the Village Panchayets and for carrying out special activities under the Rural Development Scheme, Government direct that Taluk Advisory Committees be constituted in each taluk, consisting of the local officers of Development Departments and active public workers representative of various interests. The existing Hobli Advisory Committees will get converted as Taluk Committees for each taluk. It is the desire of the Government that these committees should not confine their attention to matters falling within the scope of Village Panchayet Administration, but should function generally as local economic councils for the general development of the taluk.

The functions of the District Advisory Committees will be similarly extended and they will be expected to act as local agencies for consultation by the Economic Conference and the Heads of Development Departments for the respective districts.

10. With the steadily growing volume of work under the Scheme of Rural Development and the need for securing adequate supervision and control over the several agencies at work in each district, Government consider that the Deputy Commissioners should each be given the assistance of a

Gazetted Officer exclusively for this work. These officers, when they are appointed, will be designated as District Development Officers and they will be of the status of Assistant Commissioners. They will work under the direct control and guidance of the Deputy Commissioners. These officers will be *Ex-officio* Secretaries to the District Advisory Committees.

11. Government trust that the enhanced powers now conferred on the Village Panchayets and the withdrawal of restrictions hitherto imposed on them in regard to the utilisation of funds at their disposal, will help to improve the standard of Village Panchayet Administration and enable the Panchayets under the guidance of the Taluk and District Advisory Committees to extend their activities over a wider field of Rural Development.

J. B. MALLARADHYA,
Additional Secretary to Government.

APPENDIX.

PROGRESS UNDER THE RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME FROM 1ST JULY 1943 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1944.

1. In the villages selected under the Rural Reconstruction Drive Scheme, 153 wells have been completed and 730 are in various stages of progress, the cost of work done being Rs. 99,470-12-0. Four hundred and seventy-eight drainage works were completed and 243 were in various stages of progress. One hundred and fifty-one village extensions were formed and 116 were under progress. Under the system of Monday labour for the improvement of villages, work of the value of Rs. 1,04,418 was done by the villagers themselves. Out of this a sum of Rs. 14,256-10-3 was in adjustment of the panchayet taxes due from the villagers.

2. Four hundred and sixty-two villages have employed sweepers, and in 2,524, the villagers have attended to the work of tidying up their villages. Thopes were formed in 231 villages and the number of trees planted in the selected villages was 93,643, of which 35,632 were fruit trees. Separate plots have been provided for manure pits in 462 villages and for kitchen gardens in 266 villages. For the recreation of the children, 252 play-grounds were formed in the selected villages.

3. One hundred and thirty-three schools were started and 6,027 children admitted into these schools. Under the adult literacy campaign, 617 classes were opened and 11,390 pupils attended them. One hundred and forty-six reading rooms and 180 libraries have been opened. Ninety-one scout troops and 212 cub packs have been formed with 676 scouts and 1,459 cubs. Ninety-eight Agricultural Depots were opened for supplying seed grains, manure and agricultural implements to the agriculturists. The Department of Agriculture conducted a number of crop experiments and laid-out demonstration plots. Bee-keeping industry has been introduced in 95 villages and poultry farms have been started in 23 villages and stores branches were opened in 265 of the existing Societies.

4. Considerable work has also been carried out for the improvement of the sanitation of the villages in the selected hoblis by the removal of manure heaps, closing unsightly pits, construction of soak pits, latrines, etc.

5. Roads of a total length of 530 miles were formed in the interior, excluding 188 miles of approach roads.

6. The Gramasudharakas delivered 3,080 lectures in the villages on sanitation and health. They did useful work by inducing the villagers to avail themselves of the services of the several Development Departments to improve their economic condition. They attended 3,914 village panchayet meetings and took active interest in the collection of village panchayet taxes and arrears, in inducing well-to-do persons to make donations for various charitable purposes and in securing improved attendance in the rural schools.

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